

**San Francisco Estuary Project  
Implementation Committee Meeting  
Friday, November 5, 2004  
10:00 AM – 12:30 PM  
Vacaville Cultural Center  
1000 Ulatis Street, Vacaville, CA**

**Meeting Summary**

The meeting began at 10:10 AM

**1. Introductions/Approval of August 6, 2004 Meeting Summary**

*Larry Kolb, Chair, Implementation Committee*

A round table of introductions was made. The summary was approved as mailed.

**2. Public Comments**

Any Member of the public may address the Implementation Committee (IC) on any matter regarding implementation of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP). Time is limited to three minutes per person.

Mr. Morat said that public comments may be made in writing or verbally. Ms. Brockbank stated that the IC agenda and meeting summary may be viewed at

[http://www.abag.ca.gov/bayarea/sfep/mtg\\_materials/ccmp\\_imp\\_comm.html](http://www.abag.ca.gov/bayarea/sfep/mtg_materials/ccmp_imp_comm.html).

Mr. Feinstein provided background on Friends of the Estuary's interest on SWANCC decision impacts on State wetlands. He presented the Friends letter to Secretary Tamminen requesting that the legislature provide increased funding to State Board and Regional Water Boards to protect isolated wetlands. The Implementation Committee approved a motion to send a similar letter to Secretary Tamminen. Copies of the letter are to be mailed to the Governor, new Senate and Assembly Leaders, state legislators, and Tom Campbell. Staff will send a draft letter to members requesting copies of the letter. Wetlands protection as a CCMP goal will be the letter's emphasis.

**3. CCMP Implementation – Geographic Subcommittees Reports**

**A. Delta In-Channel Island Work Group – *Kent Nelson, DWR/Rick Morat, USFWS***

Using biotechnical methods to control erosion and create tule habitat

Discussion: Mr. Morat summarized the history of Delta In-Channel Island Work Group(DCIWG), which began in 1994 as a regional approach to saving the disappearing island habitat. DCIWG facilitated public meetings and established coordinated efforts among the various stakeholders. DCIWG has received \$2 million in grants from CALFED/DWR for the design and construction of three demonstration projects to stop the erosion of tule habitat on in-channel islands. Wind waves, boat waves, tidal flows and change in hydrodynamics contribute to Delta In-Channel Islands erosion. Log wave-breakers, interlocked root-wads, brush walls, log booms, mulch pillows, ballast buckets, vegetated stone dikes and tules planted after installation are biotechnical methods used on the pilot projects. Decreases in erosive forces, increases in native wetland plant cover, colonization of restored aquatic habitat, reduction in wave height, reduction of wave energy and increased native tule coverage are some of the program successes. The project was the winner of a 2003 Outstanding CCMP Implementation Project Award. Next steps for DCIWG are to organize workshops to raise public awareness and list DCI in AB (8)360 as levee maintenance financial projects. To minimize island erosion Ms. Salzman asked have boating limits been set? Two studies were done but the results were controversial. A third study is being conducted by the University of Southern California, a neutral party. Dr. Pawley asked how in-channel islands are defined and the magnitude of the problem? The loss of in-channel island habitat is dramatic, they are defined as "orphaned land forms," levee remnants and "functional" islands.

Ms. Darling said that the CALFED/NFWF grant requirement included the restoration of species habitat. Bird observations have been made, but fish data/sampling is incomplete because of a lack of controls and required permits.

**B. Santa Clara Basin Watershed Management Initiative** – *Lorrie Gervin, SCBWMI/Sunnyvale*  
Implementing the WMI Discussion: Ms. Gervin gave an overview of the Santa Clara Basin Watershed Management Initiative (SCWMI) first year of action. With the assistance of CONCUR the dialogue among local government land use and planning agency watershed groups moved forward. Creekside property standards, restoration projects, negotiation with the SF Water Board TMDL Division, organizing workshops, developing indicators, and hiring a project coordinator are some of their accomplishments. Challenges include no monitoring budget, identification of data gaps, and the transition from planning to implementation phase. Watershed insight over the last ten years has led to understanding that creek flows can be changed by development. Project designs with more infiltration add more water to the watershed and reduce flooding caused by impervious surfaces on creek-sides. Dr. Kolb said this information is needed at the lower management levels. Mr. Blanchfield recommended that building code writers get this knowledge. Dr. Kolb said that roof drainage needs to go into grass, not the storm drains and rainwater should stay on the property. Ms. Auer said that Los Angeles County has a very successful program where rain cisterns watered trees and gardens. Dr. Pawley asked how successful is the information dissemination to planning and public works departments? Dr. Kolb said that policy makers need to do a better job of getting information to the planners. Ms. Gervin said that it is an evolutionary process and that WMI is developing best management practice comparisons. Dr. Kolb also noted that most TMDL pollutants stick to fine particles. As pump stations remove accumulated sediment, contaminant loads are reduced.

**C. North Bay Geographic Subcommittee** – *Jeff Blanchfield, BCDC/Barbara Salzman, Marin Audubon*  
Working with partners to select restoration projects  
Discussion: The North Bay Geographic subcommittee focused on small publicly owned projects that need help. The Black Point Restoration Site, 130 acre parcel, near Novato Creek and Bel Marin Keys, was selected as a restoration project. It took a long time for the agencies and non-government entities to work together. There has been a question whether the former antenna field site (Hamilton Air Base) is “clean” as the State Lands Commission has stated. There are a number of problematic buildings where soil samples are needed to determine PCB and lead paint existence. The State has a surplus properties list, which could be a source for potential restorable sites. The Marin County Flood District owns the adjacent land to the Black Point Site. The land is then leased to the Novato Sanitation District, who then leases the land for grazing.  
Action: Dr. Kolb volunteered as lead to speed up the investigation. Mr. Potter will contact Dave Wydell, Assistant Secretary for Land, about the surplus properties list. The IC will review the list for other suitable sites for restoration.

#### **4. CCMP Implementation – Research and Monitoring** – *Mike Connor, SFEI*

**A. Regional Monitoring Program (RMP)** Dr. Connor reported briefly on recent activities. The RMP has just completed a 5-year peer review and has re-designed the sediment sampling sites to develop a better understanding for TMDLs. SFEI has created an electronic newsletter, SF Bay Mercury News [http://mail.sfei.org/mailman/listinfo/mercury\\_newsletter](http://mail.sfei.org/mailman/listinfo/mercury_newsletter). To publish mercury articles, contact Jay Davis at [jay@sfei.org](mailto:jay@sfei.org). Lester McKee, PhD received a Proposition 13 grant for a multibox model on PCBs - to determine how the Bay changed from 1940s to 2000. Anthropogenic compounds are a new trend in pollutants and they are impacting estuary life. They include flame retardants, herbicides, industrial products, deodorants, estrogen, and plasticizers. The Practical Guidebook to the Control of Invasive Aquatic and Wetland Plants of the SF Bay-Delta Region is a new publication on the SFEI website. Mr. Feinstein commented that the word “guide” has the connotation of good, whereas invasive species are not good.

- B. **Central/No. California Ocean Observing System (CeNCOOS)** is the regional office for a national ocean monitoring system. More than \$20 million is available through NOAA and the Coastal Conservancy to establish partnerships to implement the program. It is mutually beneficial to CeNCOOS and partners to develop and share environmental data and technology. <http://sfports.wr.usgs.gov/> website is an example of sophisticated real time data on tides, current, wind, water, etc. Mr. Feinstein asked if the Salt Ponds group is working with CeNCOOS on tidal prisms? Physical scientists need to know how they can help. At the September 28<sup>th</sup> Oakland CeNCOOS Workshop sediment management assistance was requested.
- C. **Ecosystem Indicators and Performance Measures.** A steering committee is organizing an Indicators Workshop for January 26, 2005. The goal is too achieve interagency collaboration, commitment and a framework to link data providers and users. Developing a funding strategy will be an important component.
- D. **Sediment Management Work Group.** On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, a South Bay Salt Ponds workshop is scheduled by Lynn Trulio to look at where will the sediment originate for restoration. The SF Foundation Bay Fund has posted an RFP and a proposal will be submitted to seek additional funding on a sediment management plan for the Estuary.

**5. SFEP Issues/Activities – National Estuary Program – Good news/Bad news**

- A. **NEP Authorized, but reduced budget, implications for SFEP** – *Marcia Brockbank*, *SFEP* reported that Congress reauthorized the National Estuary Programs for five years and an annual authorization of \$35 million, but the highest appropriation has been \$24 million. The House voted for a \$24.5 million appropriation, while the Senate voted for \$20 million, so the final numbers will be worked out in conference. A realistic amount will be \$22-23 million. In recent years, the individual NEPs have received about \$500,000 annually, but there likely will be reduced funding next year. She does not know the amount of the SFEP cut, but it may be \$50,000-\$75,000. Ms. Brockbank commented a draft work plan and budget will be on the February meeting agenda and asked that members call or email her with their recommendations for eliminating or reducing tasks.
- B. **CCMP Biennial Review:** February 2005 – *Marcia Brockbank*, *SFEP* informed the committee about the upcoming review. All NEPs must undergo regular review to be eligible for continued funding. SFEP satisfactorily passed the two previous reviews. Participants will include San Francisco and Washington, DC EPA staff, a visiting NEP director and invited IC members. The review involves a substantial written report on all SFEP activities since the previous (2002) review, a two-day site visit and field trip. The report is to be submitted Feb 28 to EPA Head Quarters and the site visit will be scheduled for Spring 2005. Ms. Brockbank asked members to refer to Page 17 of the packet for more information.
- C. **2005 SOE State of the Estuary Conference** – advisory committee needed – *Karen McDowell*, *SFEP* notified members that a Planning meeting will be scheduled in January 2005 and are invited to participate. The tentative conference dates are October 18,19 and 20 at the Oakland Kaiser Convention Center. A recommendation was made to hold a future conference in the South Bay. Planning committee volunteers include Mss. Auer and Darling, Mr. Morat and a BCDC staff to be assigned by Mr. Blanchfield. Salt Pond Restoration and the Delta were recommended program sessions.
- D. **Question: continuing to alternate meeting locations** – Vacaville and Oakland. Because of budget cuts, in 2005 the City of Vacaville will start charging room rent. Mr. Dubois informed members that he is now living in Centro and only flies up to attend groups of scheduled meetings. Ms. Brockbank asked members for their recommendations for complimentary meeting sites. Ms. Gervin volunteered a South Bay site. Mr. Morat recommended the Maritime Academy in Vallejo and he would organize a van pool from Sacramento. The Fairfield Community Center was also recommended.

## **6. CALFED – Cindy Darling/Dan Ray, CALFED**

### **A. CALFED Activities and ABAG CALFED Task Force – Jean Auer, SFEP/Ted Smith, Friends.**

- i. CALFED Activities Ms. Darling reported that the legislation with \$395 million authorization was signed by President Bush. Financial planning is underway. Chapter 8 IRWMP Grant process is still open. There are many funding opportunities, proposal solicitations underway.
- ii. ABAG CALFED Task Force. Ms. Auer reported that the Task Force had categories of voting and non-voting membership, this caused some controversy and concern on the part of the non-voting members. At the last meeting, it was agreed that a new group would be formed called the Bay Area Water Forum and it would be a non-voting, consensus building structure and anyone interested in the issues could attend and participate. The Task Force will still exist and be called into action if needed. Ms. Auer stated that Cynthia Murray, Marin County Supervisor is Chair and Greg Zlotnik, Santa Clara Valley Water Dist. is Co-Chair for both the Water Forum and the Task Force. Former Chair Mike Rippey continues to participate.

### **B. CALFED Science Conference Success – Karen McDowell, SFEP** reported that 1300 attendees heard 240 speakers and saw 170 posters. The conference abstracts are available online at <http://cain.nbii.gov/regional/calfed/calfedabstracts> and may be searched by author or title. The evaluations ranged from good to excellent. Mr. Nelson said the Third Biennial CALFED Science Conference is yielding important results. He said that it was an excellent conference.

## **7. Possible Items and Assignments for February 4, 2005 Meeting Agenda**

- Mercury and tidal marsh restoration
- Update on invasive species issues
- Sediment Management Plan for the Estuary
- Cattle grazing management and grazing practices/East Bay Parks/Farms in Bay Area/Joe diDonato as contacts/Vineyards
- Identify Lands Surplus for possible restoration sites
- TMDL progress report
- Salts ponds restoration/late December meeting to cover alternative restoration options/Michelle Orr
- Sand mining issues
- IRWMP by Cindy Darling
- Draft SFEP 2005-06 Work Plan/Budget
- Desalinization/Poseidon/State Desal Task Force/DWR website/Jeff Blanchfield

## **8. Announcements**

- A. Members can present public comments in writing and verbally
- B. November 18<sup>th</sup> BCDC Amend Bay Plan on Desalinization Policy, Poseidon
- C. December 1 Eelgrass workshop at BCDC
- D. December 2<sup>nd</sup> South Bay Sediment Workshop

## **9. Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 12:39 PM

## **10. Meeting at Elihu State Building in Oakland, February 4, 2005**